

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0792

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, AORG, ELAB, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL AND ILO GOVERNING BODY MEETING

REF: STATE 018824

1. MFA DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BAR Y'ACOV TOLD LABATT THAT GOI HAD SUBMITTED TO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD LENGTHY STUDY BY GROUP OF ISRAELI PROFESSORS ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES IN OCCUPIED AREAS AND HAD SENT LETTER OF REPLY TO CHARGES OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ARAB WORKERS MADE BY LEBANESE EMPLOYER DELEGATE NASR AT MAY 1975 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING. HOWEVER, GOI HAS NOT SEEN D-G'S REPORT. MFA OFFERED TO GIVE EMBASSY COPY OF REPORTS SUBMITTED TO BE POUCHED WHEN RECEIVED.

2. GOI FEELS CONFIDENT THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO CHALLENGE ISRAEL AT THE FEBRUARY GOVERNING BODY MEETING WILL BE MANAGEABLE. CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BODY, COOPER OF AUSTRALIA, CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKERS' GROUP, JOE MORRIS, WHO IS PRESIDENT OF CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS AND HAD
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JUST VISITED ISRAEL, AND HEAD OF THE EMPLOYERS' GROUP, BERNSTRAM (SWEDEN?) ARE CONSIDERED QUITE FRIENDLY TO ISRAEL

AND HAVE ASSURED BOTH HISTADRUT AND GOI OF THEIR DETERMINATION TO CONTROL SOVIET OR ARAB MANEUVERS TO ATTACK ISRAEL AND TO DEMAND FURTHER CONDEMNATIONS OF ISRAEL.

3. DIRECTOR GENERAL GUREL OF MINISTRY OF LABOR THOUGHT THAT IF FURTHER ACTION DEMANDED, BLANCHARD MAY APPOINT STUDY COMMISSION WHICH COULD DELAY REPORT WELL BEYOND JUNE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND ALLAY ISSUE FOR ANOTHER YEAR. HOWEVER, ISRAEL WOULD NOT ACCEPT FACT FINDING MISSION CONSISTING OF HOSTILE THIRD WORLD MEMBERS.

4. WHILE ISRAELIS PLEASED WITH RESTRAINING IMPACT OF U.S. LETTER OF INTENT ON ILO THIRD WORLD MEMBERS, THEY REMAIN UNEASY RE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS AT JUNE CONFERENCE RE CHALLENGE TO THEIR CREDENTIALS, FURTHER HOSTILE RESOLUTIONS, AND POSSIBLE ELECTION OF EAST EUROPEAN CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN. HISTADRUT DELEGATE BEN ISRAEL PLANS TO DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH U.S. WORKERS' DELEGATE IRVING BROWN DURING GOVERNING BODY MEETING.

5. ISRAELIS WERE PLEASED BY RECENT VISIT BY CLC PRESIDENT MORRIS WHO ASSURED THEM THAT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKERS' GROUP HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING TO MINIMIZE SOVIET-ARAB ANTI-ISRAELI OFFENSIVE. MORRIS REPORTEDLY STRESSED NEED FOR WESTERN SOLIDARITY TO STAND UP TO SOVIET EFFORTS TO TAKE OVER ILO AND REGRETTED U.S. THREAT TO WITHDRAW, FEARING THAT ILO REFORMS MIGHT NOT BE SWIFT ENOUGH TO PREVENT ACTUAL U.S. WITHDRAWAL WITH ALL THAT THIS IMPLIED FOR FUTURE OF ILO AND WESTERN TRADE UNION COOPERATION.

6. ISRAELIS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN'S VISIT TO KEY ILO MEMBERS COUNTRIES AND HOPED THAT HIS DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE CONDUCTED AT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' LEVEL AND WOULD HELP TO STRENGTHEN A COMMON WESTERN POSITION TO MEET THE SOVIET-ARAB CHALLENGE.
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